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7/7/66

Dear Mr. Jones,

Your interesting-looking book, with the kind inscription, arrived this morning. My wife and I have been reading it in the few monents we can snatch for reading. We'll probably scrap tonight, for we do most of our little reading these days abed. After reading mine, if you like a comment in it, let me know and I'll send it to you.

I'll nibble at this as there seems some point in comment, and at some time, where there is enough to call a letter, I'll mail it. I'm now through only the first chapter, which deals with an aspect to which I devoted little attention. It is impressive.

You may be interested in knowing of the Secret Service Report, which I have seen and of which I'm getting a copy, contains an interview with Alonzo Hudkins on Tom Howard's presence at the Sheriff's office, seeking a release for Ruby, before Oswald was delivered to the hospital. Hudkins was with the Houston Post.

Today I got an invitation from Educational TV, of which I'll hear more. Should such an occasion arrise when I have time to do something, would you care to be on it, if I can arrange it?

7/12 I flit from one thing to another, keeping too busy and getting something done all the time but never quite finishing one thing before I must get on something else. My wife is typing a 60-page analysis of the Knebel ex-job on Epstein that I shall have for the first time I am confronted with it. I saw an advance copy when I wason the Long John Knebel show (all three, Knebel, Lasky and Kevin O'Dougherty are of the more radical wtist of the radical right, Knebel with the pretense of moderation-but that show was a ball. I tore 'em up. Their terrible bad behavior, unhideen hatred and total proselytizing kind of ignorance/ ~~hatred~~ was a big help in getting me through). I immediately challenged LOOK to pay me what they paid either of the others (for Epstein got $5,000 to play clay pigeon) for a definitive answer to Knebel. Of course, the reply I did not expect has not come, but I do have the answer. I had paid scant attention to the Rowland testimony because there was so much I had to leave out anyway. But I am now satisfied he was a truthful and important witness. The Commission's treatment of him and the odd kind of collateral corroboration is what persuades me...I've agreed to a confrontation with Specter on Educational TV but believe I have persuaded them to hold it off. Not because I'm not ready, but because I want this to proceed slowly, so it will not be too much of a shock to people, and so copies of my book can get out to where people can get them. That Dolan show must have been something. There wasn't a copy of the book in Frisco the day I made it, and the distributor promised to have a supply there the first of the next week, which was the fifth. He phoned the eighth to order an additional 500, his original 500 apparently being gone, and told my wife it was like wildfire there. He indicated his belief that he'd soon want an additional 1000, which means we'll have to reprint, for that is a little more than we now have of the 5,000. But I've got to get some money in before I can ask the printer for further credit. I'm going to see him today or tomorrow and try and get ready...One of the NY distributors ordered an additional 500 by phone the morning of the fifth. A&A in Boston, while not reordering (they also got 500) didn't fill the order of a [illegible] ABPIPA cabled for Spanish serialization rights Sat.

and a letter of similar character from Italy awaits me at the printer's...We've gotten an order from, I believe Aldrich's in Dallas but I do nit want to awaken my wife to find out. Thanks.

As I can I plug away at the archives. If you ever get a chance to talk with Marrion Baker I think you'll find his testimony was fixed. I have seen statements he gave after and I think before his testimony that blow it up. On September 24 he and Truly gave handwritten statements to the FBI, why at that late date I can only guess. Truly's is slight and vague and of no apparent purpose. But stupid Baker never learned by rote. His originally read "second or third floor" and or third was stricken through. It is, however, clearly legible in the original, which I ordered a Xeroxed copy of yesterday. And at the end of his sentence on meeting Oswald, he said the opposite of Oswald's motion catching his eye. He said Oswald was standing there "drinking a coke". This also is stricken through, but legible. I am accumulating a number of things like this for a sequel on which I've got a good start. I've gone much further with the autopsy and have a 6,000 word piece in England and France, and the Sunday New York Times Magazine will read it (through the author of the Sunday Times review, whose personal opinion seems to be not quite what he said in his piece) knowing in advance what it says. I've got the first of two pieces on the pictures roughed, unread, and was started on the second when Knebel knocked...All of this goes forward from the book and will try, responsibly, to show who did what. I think I've got only a little less than might be required to take a case of conspiracy to court right now - the conspiracy on the suppression, not the murder...I'd like anything that anybody might have on what Zapruder has said. His films were doctored, and I think I can now prove where...His original statement, which means no more and no less than other eyewitness opinions under such great stress, is that the shots came from behind him. There was no equivocation. I have the hasty hand-written report of the SS Agent who got the film from him. I intend these for magazine pieces organized in advance into a book, and unless I have to pull the plug on him earlier, Specter will be a major part of it. Meanwhile, I'm quite happy for him and Rankin to lie their heads off to the press. Specter pillories himself in his statements to Fox for UPI and to Knebel. I refrained from sending Rankin a copy of "Whitewash" until he said J. Edgar Hoover didn't know the FBI business. I then accompanied the book with a letter...I've located two of the autopsy doctors - Finck is in Vietnam -sent them copies with a polite letter that has been unanswered. I want to leave them alone for a while, having built just a little fire under them with a full-page, illustrated story in their local paper that I'm sure their neighbors have noticed and commented upon. I think if the doctors see how things are going and stew for a little while they'll come closer to the complete truth when they do talk, and I want this to be not a scandal - it's already too big a scandal - but a cleansing...Also some interesting things on Marina from her earlier interviews, incuudingthe transcript of a 45-page long tape as soon as they took her over, several earlier FBI and Secret Service interviews, including the very early sweating, where they told her, once she said she wanted to stay in this country, what she'd have to do...I become more satisfied daily that for all their mistakes, the members of the Commission did not really know what was being done to them and behind their backs. Lane and Epstein at least disagree with this and Lane and Tr-Trevor Roper are out to pin the whole thing on Warren, personally...I stayed up the second night I had you book until 4 a.m. to finish it. You've done a very good and very brave thing, and I found it interesting enough to have no trouble staying awake. I think you have some vrry interesting things that may well pan out, especially about Ruby. Gertz tells me he'll be in touch with me...The Commission's belated interest i in the police car that honked outside 1026, in the files, is roughly the same as in my book...Enclosed are a typed and hand-written version of what it would please me if you'd paste in your copy, or I can send you another with it written in. The second is in case you'd like people to be able to read it!...It is odd how the word of my book is getting out. We had 18 order yesterday. But it is also gratifying and confirms those of us who had faith in our people and their basic understanding and integrity...I'd love to be able to accept your invitation to visit and go to Dallas but the prospects are slim. We are so broke and in debt over this that even a smash hit has little chance of breaking us even. But thanks for verything.